GRAPEVINE
VISITACION·VALLEY

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Town Hall Meeting at Valley Community Center

by Len Appiano

Representatives from several San Francisco city departments joined Supervisor Sophie Maxwell on Mar. 22 in hosting a town hall meeting at the Visitacion Valley Community Center.

Included were speakers from the Department of Public Health (DPH), S.F. Muni, Recreation and Parks, Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT), Department of Public Works (DPW), the S.F. Housing Authority, and the S.F. Police.

Local Developments

Both Sara He and Marti Paschal from Supervisor Maxwell's office summarized several developments affecting residents in the Valley.

He described interest in a proposed citywide ordinance that would require retailers to start own recycling programs; possible formation of a task force to explore retraining recently unemployed low-wage garment workers for sustainable work; and the creation of a neighborhood violence prevention collaborative to help empower Valley residents. Also mentioned were past and recent improvements to Little Hollywood Park.

Paschal reported that the Planning Commission continues to draft documentation pertaining to the Schlage Lock site and will subsequently hold a public meeting to obtain community consensus once their work is completed.

Muni Fare Increase

With his department facing a $52 million deficit for the coming fiscal year, Muni Director Michael Burns described the system's necessity to raise the basic fare to $1.25.

"The one thing that we have tried to do throughout this process has been to preserve the amount of service that we have," he said while explaining that other ways of closing the monetary gap would come from internal efficiencies – including 100 layoffs – and a yet-to-be approved infusion of $10 million from parking fees and fines. Fast Passes would increase to $45 and cable car fares would rise to $3, with youth, elderly and disabled fares remaining at 35 cents, although their related monthly passes would now cost $10.

"Muni has the lowest average fare of any major system in the country," Burns explained, "and we will continue to have the lowest average fare after these increases."

More Valley Busses

With the replacement of all but 80 diesel busses within the last few years, Burns said the projected significant increase of riders on the 9X San Bruno line would require almost all of the morning runs to be made by articulated vehicles, with afternoon service supplied by 50 percent of the larger busses. After minor modifications, all busses recently acquired by Muni should be on the streets by June 2003, while 25 of the older articulated vehicles would be retained and improved for service on other lines.

In other developments, Burns reported that Muni has begun work on Spanish and Chinese translations for its future bulletins and publications, with languages targeted to appropriate neighborhoods. He also said that the Third Street Light Rail was progressing on schedule and would commence construction in Visitacion Valley in April. *See Page 3*

Supervisor Sophie Maxwell of District 10 and James Howard, a deputy director at the Department of Parking and Traffic, were among many City officials present at the Mar. 22 meeting to discuss local issues with Visitacion Valley residents.

Traffic Safety Grants Focus on Local Needs

Ten community-based organizations in San Francisco will receive grants of $19,000 to $28,000 from the San Francisco Department of Public Health to conduct traffic safety projects this year.

These traffic safety grants specifically address pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, drunk driving prevention and adolescent driver safety.

"Pedestrians in San Francisco are at high risk for injury –particularly seniors, children and the disabled," said Dr. Mitch Katz, Director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. "Because a large proportion of injury deaths occur even before medical treatment arrives, focusing on prevention makes sense and makes the city safer for everyone."

These individual community projects have been designed by the residents and identify problems and solutions unique to each neighborhood. Because pedestrian injuries account for an unusually high proportion of traffic-related injuries in San Francisco, the majority of the grants are for pedestrian safety projects. In 2001, (the most recent year for which complete data is available) 16 pedestrians were killed and another 819 were injured in San Francisco.

Following is a list of the 10 community based organizations receiving grants: Boys and Girls Club of San Francisco; Chinatown Community Development Center; Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth; Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, Inc.; International Institute of San Francisco; Real Alternatives Program Collaborative; San Francisco Bicycle Coalition; Senior Action Network; Tenderloin Housing Clinic; and Walk San Francisco.

Pedestrian Safety

Three of the six pedestrian safety projects focus on developing neighborhood specific action plans to improve pedestrian safety. Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth will work with residents in the Excelsior to develop the Excelsior Community Action Plan for Safer Streets. Similarly, Senior Action Network will work with residents in Visitacion Valley to improve pedestrian safety, particularly in relation to construction of the 3rd Street Light Rail. The Tenderloin Housing Clinic will ask for input from single-room occupancy (SRO) tenants regarding pedestrian safety in the Tenderloin and South of Market areas and develop an action plan based on their involvement.

Because immigrants face language barriers and cultural differences, they have unique challenges navigating the streets of the City. Two of the funded groups will address pedestrian safety issues for monolingual residents. The International Institute of San Francisco will hold educational workshops on pedestrian safety for the Chinese, Russian, and Latino communities. Chinatown Community Development Center will work with monolingual Chinese residents, school administration, and city agency representatives to improve pedestrian safety around the intersection of Kearny and Clay streets.

Finally, because school-area pedestrian safety is so important, Walk San Francisco will work with two elementary schools to develop and implement a practical and effective pedestrian safety plan, including a student pick up and drop off system. As a result, Walk SF will write a San Francisco School Area Safety Manual based on the successes and limitations of the project, to serve as a model to other schools in San Francisco.

Adolescent Driver Safety/ Drunk Driving Prevention

Three organizations will work with teenagers to develop and implement traffic safety projects for their peers. The Columbia Park Clubhouse of the Boys and Girls Club of San Francisco will teach teenagers how to produce videos on safe driving practices and drunk driving prevention for teenagers. The teenagers from the Columbia Park Clubhouse will also create and deliver traffic safety presentations to other adolescents.

Similarly, the Real Alternatives Program Collaborative will work with teenagers to conduct peer education presentations and produce videos addressing traffic safety dangers targeting teenagers. Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, Inc will create and distribute, with input from teenagers, culturally- and youth-specific materials regarding drunk driving prevention as well as conduct educational workshops for teenagers in the Haight and the Western Addition.

Bike Safety

Taxi and bus drivers are amongst the most frequent drivers on the road, spending hours each day driving back and forth. Reaching out to this population could have wide-ranging positive effects on traffic courtesy, making the streets safer for everyone.

The San Francisco Bicycle Coalition will soon begin a training program designed to help professional drivers better understand how to safely share our streets with bicyclists and another training program for bicyclists on safe practices around buses and commercial vehicles. This should help reduce conflict between all road users.

Why Leland Avenue Has Four Coin Laundromats Within Three Blocks

by Russel Morine,
Visitacion Valley Planning Alliance

Leland Avenue once represented the primary shopping district for Visitacion Valley. Although the commercial portion of Leland Avenue extends for no more then three blocks, long time residents can point out the location of former markets, a hardware store, two banks, a bakery, and a pharmacy. Today, not much remains of these once successful establishments. Now we have several coin laundries, dry cleaners, and nail or hair salons intermixed with various other limited service establishments and several vacant storefronts.

What caused this change and when did it happen?

To begin to understand why Leland Avenue is the way it is, the investigation starts with the growth of our auto dependent society. Before the automobile became a "necessity," most residents relied heavily on retail options that were within close proximately to their homes. This pattern can be seen in the layout of Leland Ave. All the shops are close to one another and the entire corridor is within walking distance from most of the neighborhood. The majority of the population in Visitacion Valley lives within one-half mile of Leland Avenue.

In the early 1950s, the sphere of retail options increased dramatically as automobile ownership increased. People could now easily access goods and services at locations outside of their immediate neighborhoods. The automobile greatly expanded the geographic range of consumer spending.

This in itself was not enough to undermine the neighborhood shopping district. Why travel to other parts of the City if you have everything you need just a few blocks away? The growth of national chain stores provided a reason. Chain stores need a larger customer base in order to survive. This was especially true for chain stores that were located in the other early 1950 creation, the mall. The success of malls relied directly on a large, regional customer base that arrives by automobiles. Having an advantage in pricing, selection, and availability of merchandise due to their size and economy of scale, chain stores began to draw consumers away from their traditional neighborhood shopping districts. At first this would have primarily centered on durable goods such as clothing and housewares. In time, however, the auto dependent chain store concept was applied to non-durable goods such as groceries in the growth of supermarkets.

As locally owned, independent markets became national owned supermarkets the population needed to support each store grew. Supermarkets had to offer more services to attract a larger population. The small neighborhood market that for so many years was the primary source of groceries could not compete with the larger, more centrally located supermarket, therefore they lost customers. By the late 50s, over 60% of grocery sales were through supermarkets.

At this stage, neighborhood-shopping districts either adapted or faded away. So, why did Leland Avenue fade while other shopping districts survived? The final blows that sealed Leland Avenue's fate was a relatively rapid shift in the demographic composition of Visitacion Valley and the completion of what soon became a notoriously violent public housing complex: Geneva Towers.

The population of Visitacion Valley went from a majority of White in the 1970s to an Asian majority by the end of the 1980s. A transformed population in itself is not an undermining factor, many areas have undergone demographic shifts and emerged as a "new" vibrant neighborhood. What hurt Leland Avenue however was that this shift came about just as the automobile, Malls and Supermarkets were coming into stride. Leland Avenue had no time to find a natural balance. The few stores that remained along Leland Avenue soon realized that their "traditional" customer base not only did not shop in the neighborhood, they had also left the neighborhood.

The completion of Geneva Towers (1967) ensured that the hope of a slow reversal of fortune for Leland Avenue would have to wait. Geneva Towers started out as a forward thinking venture but soon began making headline as a dangerous and violent public housing project. The 22 story twin towers in the midst of a low-density residential neighborhood became what Visitacion Valley, and Leland Avenue by default, was infamous for.

As a result of these factors, Leland Avenue is a pale picture of what it once was. Many stores are now vacant and those remaining are establishments that either don't rely on the immediate neighborhood to survive or establishments that are entirely service based. This explains why Leland Avenue has four coin operated laundromats and three dry cleaners within three blocks.

Coin operated laundromats and dry cleaners the few types of establishments that still fit nicely into the traditional neighborhood-shopping district format. Unlike most errands, dry cleaning needs a combination of two trips, to drop off and pickup. It's easier to coordinate this nearer to your home.

Coin operated laundromats also rely solely on the surrounding neighborhood to survive. One can't simply do a load of laundry during a lunch break or on the way home from work. It makes sense to do it closer to home at a convenient hour. From the business owner perspective, laundromats are a 100 percent cash business that, outside of actual machines, has zero inventories to maintain. Someone has to open the doors in the morning and shut down at night, but other than that they are 100 percent self service, and require almost no staffing. If you factor in that Leland Avenue had several vacant store fronts, a consistently large population, the need for this neighborhood based service, and the low operational cost of a coin operated Laundromats, it makes sense to find four establishment within close proximity. Especially when you consider that not many other types of stores could survive along Leland Avenue.

The decline of Leland Avenue occurred slowly over many years, therefore when and if Leland Avenue sees a reversal of fortune, it's likely to take place slowly over many years.

References http //history sandiego edu/gen/filmnotes/shoppingcenter html. http // www grocetena net/about/history html

Bay Area Motorists Paying Highest Gas Prices

Motorists throughout Northern California and the nation are getting hit with some of the highest gas prices on record, according to a recent report from AAA of Northern California.

With all of Northern California's major cities now averaging more than $2 a gallon for regular, unleaded gasoline, motorists here are experiencing the highest prices in the country. Over the past month, the average price for a gallon of regular, unleaded in Northern California has jumped 17 percent, to $2.10.

"In virtually all of Northern California, finding gas below $2 a gallon is nearly impossible," said AAA of Northern California spokeswoman Jenny Mack. "These are some of the highest prices ever recorded by AAA."

Nationally, prices are up 9 cents, and are now averaging $1.70 per gallon. Nearly 20 states set new record highs over the past 30 days, including California. At $2.10, California has the highest average price in the country and the only state with an average above $2 a gallon. The Bay Area, and specifically the city of San Francisco, has the dubious distinction of being the most expensive place in the country to buy gasoline.

The average price for a gallon of regular, unleaded in the Bay Area is $2.14. In San Francisco, motorists are paying an average $2.24, an increase of 15 per in one month.

Continuing uncertainty about the possibility of war in the Middle East has helped drive crude oil prices to their highest levels since before the Gulf War. The high cost of oil, combined with the effect of lower than normal gasoline supply levels, is contributing to the rise in prices.

In California, gasoline supplies should begin to pick up as refineries conclude their seasonal maintenance and production increases. However, with the summer driving season and a traditional increase in demand just around the corner, motorists could continue to face high prices in the future.

"Now may be a great time to try out public transportation if it's available in your area, said Mack "It's also really important to exercise your rights as a consumer by encouraging competition and shopping around for the best prices."

According to the March survey, 23 of 25 major Northern California cities are experiencing the highest prices every recorded by AAA. Chico residents saw the most dramatic rise, with an increase of 43 cents over the past month. Despite the increase, Chico continues to have the cheapest gas in the state at an even $2 per gallon. Marysville is also averaging $2 per gallon.

Didn't File Taxes Last Year? Check Your Mail

More than 350,000 notices are being mailed to Californians who failed to file their 2001 state income tax returns, according to the Franchise Tax Board (FTB).

"Most Californians file their tax returns and pay on time," stated State Controller and FTB Chair Steve Westly. "I strongly urge those who didn't file to comply with the notice. Making the tax system fair entails that we all participate in supporting our state government."

Each year, Californians file more than 14 million tax returns. Those who earned California income, but did not file, will get a notice asking about their return. *See Page 3*

Grapevine Mailbox

More Measures Needed to Ensure National Safety

Dear Friend

Since the terrorist attacks in 2001, our nation has taken unprecedented steps to make us more secure. Airports now have enhanced security measures, we more often see guards and security measures where they did not exist before, and we more often submit to security checks at government office buildings. Yet we also must continue to examine what additional measures we can implement to ensure our safety.

One area where more security is undoubtedly needed is our chemical factories. The Environmental Protection Agency reports that 110 plants nationwide could release chemicals during a terrorist attack that could threaten more than a million people. These plants are located in 22 states across our nation. More importantly, we have no standards for security at these factories.

I have cosponsored legislation, the Chemical Security Act, that would require serious steps be taken to increase security at our nation's chemical factories. Among its provisions is the requirement that the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Homeland Security identify chemical factories that could pose a serious threat in the event of accident or attack and create a list of these high priority sites. The ranking would be based on the degree of hazard, based on the chemicals used at each plant. The two agencies would then require that these facilities assess their vulnerabilities and prepare and implement plans for response to accident or attack. Importantly, local firefighters and law enforcement would be a part of this process.

Millions of Americans live, work, go to school and play near chemical factories. The Chemical Security Act would give these Americans greater security from harm which could be caused by accident or attack on these facilities. I am pleased to join several of my fellow Senators in my support of this bill.

Sincerely, Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senator

New Tax Would Restore The American Dream

Our tax code is an eight million-word mess. It's beyond any type of reform and is unfair to every American. We are reminded of this every time we receive a paycheck.

But change may be coming since President Bush has suggested it may finally be time to replace the income tax with a consumption tax.

Several commissions, including The National Commission on Economic Growth and Tax Reform, on which I served, have all concluded that a replacement tax system should satisfy six principles: 1. Economic Growth, 2. Fairness, 3. Simplicity; 4. Neutrality; 5. Visibility; 6. Stability.

The FairTax, a national sales tax on consumption, meets all requirements. It has been extensively researched, analyzed and documented by some of the most respected business people, economists and academicians in the country and was introduced into Congress as The FairTax Act of 2003 (H.R. 25). However, without the insistence of millions of voters, it will be stuck in congressional committees, 'going nowhere.'

The FairTax is a single rate of 23 percent inclusive on all retail purchases, which would replace all personal and corporate income taxes, payroll taxes and death taxes. It eliminates all loopholes, which would generate more revenue to fund our government.

The FairTax unleashes the full economic potential of our economy. It eliminates hidden taxes and allows people to save more. The FairTax untaxes the poor by providing every American household a prebate for taxes on necessities before they buy, not after. It also untaxes education, which is one of the keys to an improved standard of living. Additionally, it would not punish sweat equity. Working harder and longer would allow people to save and invest without double and triple taxation. The FairTax is simple and highly visible.

Americans just want to pursue their dreams. If we want to remain the greatest nation in the world, we must succeed at restoring hope in the hearts of every working American.

The president has shown courage to suggest that it is time to solve the problem. We must have the insistence to make sure change occurs.

The voters are still in charge. It's our move.

Herman Cain, Chairman,
Tax Leadership Council for the
Americans for Fair Taxation

Sizable Jump in California Diversion Rate

SACRAMENTO - Last year California diverted 48 percent of its waste stream from landfills, a veritable mountain of materials– more than 34 million tons– through programs implemented by cities and counties that have embraced diversion over disposal, according to the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

"Even with all the concern over our economy, our statewide diversion rate took another huge step forward in 2002," said Board Chair Linda Moulton-Patterson. "The combined efforts of local government, businesses, and residents throughout the state are paying tremendous dividends-in resource conservation and landfill reductions-that will have long-term benefits for all Californians."

At 34 million tons, current waste diversion is quadruple the level in 1990, when the Integrated Waste Management Act (the Act) took effect. Since then, Californians have saved more than 230 million tons of natural resources from our landfills.

The Act required every local jurisdiction to divert 50 percent of its waste from landfill beginning in the year 2000. Verification by the Board of local governments' success in meeting this requirement is now more than 80 percent complete, having begun in February 2002. More than 60 percent of California jurisdiction reviewed by the Board so far have met or exceeded the goal, achieving diversion rates as high as 91 percent.

Cities and counties around the state-urban and rural, large and small-have surpassed the goal. With a population of 3.8 million, the City of Los Angeles diverted 60 percent of its solid waste away from landfills in 2000, saving an amazing 5.7 million tons of resources. Also in 2000, the bustling Bay Area city of Oakland diverted 52 percent, Riverside diverted 58 percent, Anaheim and Orange diverted 50 and 56 percent, respectively; Burbank diverted 63 percent; and Long Beach diverted 55 percent.

Some jurisdictions have already set their individual diversion goals higher. Los Angeles, for example is targeting 70 percent diversion by 2020.

However, some of California's most energetic recyclers also include small communities in rural reaches of the state. Towns like rustic Fort Bragg (pop. 7,100) in Mendocino County, where solid waste diversion reached 52 percent in 2000, are good examples. Colfax (pop. 1,650) in Placer County diverted 65 percent, Big Bear Lake (pop. 6, 325) in San Bernardino County diverted 59 percent, and Maricopa (pop. 1,130) in Kern County diverted 62 percent. The 1,160 good citizens of Blue Lake in Humboldt County diverted 91 percent of their waste.

To achieve their high diversion rates, jurisdictions have tailored new waste handling infrastructures from options that include curbside recycling, material recovery facilities and composting operations, all supported by comprehensive waste prevention and public education efforts. To find out how all California jurisdictions are doing in meeting the 50 percent diversion goal, visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/LGTools/mars/jurdrsta.asp.

The six-member California Integrated Waste Management Board is responsible for protecting public health and safety and the environment through management of the estimated 72 million tons of solid waste generated in California each year. The Board works in partnership with local government, industry, and the public to reduce solid waste disposal and ensure environmentally safe landfills. California now diverts 48 percent of its solid waste away from disposal.

The Waste Board is one of six boards, departments, and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA).

SLUG Composting And Gardening Classes

**Basic Spring Composting*, Saturday, Apr. 5, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Come to SLUG's beautiful demonstration garden and learn the techniques of composting and how to use it for healthy plants and hardy vegetables and fruits. Garden For the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton St. Free!

**Sustainable Landscape Workday*, Saturday, Apr. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Join SLUG's Resource Efficient Gardening and Landscaping Program for this final workday in our series at the Garden for the Environment on 7th Ave. at Lawton St. Drop in, or plan to stay all day and learn about native plants, irrigation and sheet mulching. Bring a potluck dish to share and your own plate and utensils. Free!

**Create Your Own Mushroom Garden*, Saturday, Apr. 19, 1-4 p.m. Learn to grow culinary and medicinal mushrooms in your own backyard. Ken Litchfield of the S.F. Mycological Society will lead this workshop on the benefits of fungus in your garden. Garden For the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton St. $10 SLUG and MSSF members, $15 non-members. Pre-registration required, call SLUG's Education Dept. at (415) 255-4493 to pre-register.

What Will the Light Rail Really Mean to Business?

The aesthetics that the Third Street Light Rail will provide will be like *night and day*. Muni riders will get a virtual tour of the entire east side of the City – from the Embarcadero to Visitacion Valley. Riders will enjoy waterfront views, historic sites and bustling communities. When construction is complete, tourists who previously bypassed the opportunity to visit the southeast section of the city will simply *stay on the train*. This will offer increased revenue potential to businesses that once missed this opportunity in times passed.

In recent years, several vacant office buildings and warehouses on Third Street between 16th and 22nd streets have been renovated into apartment and live-work lofts. The increase of residents into this area is attributed in part to a growing list in South of Market. PacBell Park, Yerba Buena Garden Center for the Arts, the redevelopment of Mission Bay, Caltrain improvements, and a UCSF research extension are all within a short bus or train ride.

Tips for Safe Driving In Foggy Weather

In an effort to educate motorists about proper driving procedures during foggy conditions, AAA offers the following tips:

*Slow down. It can be difficult to determine distance and speed in areas with limited visibility.

*Increase your following distance. Allow more space between cars to react to changing conditions.

*Turn on your low beam headlights.

*Learn to listen. Turn off the radio, crack the window and listen for the sounds of other traffic. Sound can provide an advance warning of conditions you might be unable to see right away.

*Use wipers and defrosters as necessary to increase your visibility.

*If possible, postpone your trip until the fog clears. If conditions worsen while you're on the road, carefully exit the roadway and proceed to a safe location until visibility improves.

The Third Street Bayview Hunters Point commercial corridor is an urban oasis that many longtime residents considered abandoned by city planners. With Muni moving forward with construction of the Third Street Light Rail Project, residents and business owners no longer feel isolated.

It is a common perception that most businesses in Bayview are light industrial and might not be generally affected by the construction brought on by the Third Street light Rail. In reality, most of Bayview's businesses are retail oriented. Businesses along Third Street are laid out in a concept known as *clustering*. Business clustering is an important strategy for creating a successful business district. Clustering involves geographically grouping certain businesses together so that both the customers and business operators benefit.

While clustering strategies may not be the same in every community, the benefits of clustering are similar. In short, clustering provides consumers with a critical mass of businesses in one location and creates retail synergy.

The benefits of clustering enable consumers to make purchases at multiple businesses and satisfy a number of shopping needs in one trip. For example, Pier 39 businesses focus on merchandise that is attractive to tourists compared to commercial retail in the downtown area.

Streetscaping will be an important contribution from Muni's improvement strategy. It will include benches and trees along the corridor and will result in a more aesthetically pleasing environment. Occasional plazas, such as the Bayview Opera House Mendell Street breezeway and amphitheater will encourage more people to stroll down Third Street.

In short, what the Third Street Light Rail means for businesses along Third Street is a more accessible link to the consumers who would generally pass or disembark before reaching Bayview. Commuters who generally use third Street to reach Downtown often find themselves frustrated with the fight for parking. The Light Rail will motivate people to park in Bayview, eat breakfast, buy coffee, buy a newspaper and ride the train.

From Third Street Light Rail Construction Bulletin

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Albert Kuan, D.D.S.

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Saturday Choir Rehersal: 10:00 a.m.

You are cordially welcome to join us for study, worship, fellowship and service. We seek to teach the Bible and to lift up Jesus Christ so He can draw all persons to Himself.

Come to Church This Week

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Why Businesses Should Provide Bins For California's Bottles and Cans

by Darryl Young

The next time you finish a can of soda or bottle of water, look around for a recycling bin. Do you see one? Chances are, you'll have a hard time finding it. How about the last time you were cleaning out your car at the gas station? Seeing a movie? Working out at the gym?

The fact is, most of the places that need recycling bins don't provide them. You might want to recycle your bottle or can, but there's simply no opportunity to do so.

Last year in California, an estimated 8 billion aluminum, glass and plastic beverage containers went to our landfills. Bottles and cans that could have saved energy and provided raw materials for things like building supplies, carpet and sweaters (which could be used to warm Californians who have turned down their heat to save energy) wound up instead taking up precious landfill space.

To put that number in perspective, take a look at those plastic water bottles that have exploded in popularity (from which you may be drinking right now.) Every day in California, 2.8 million of them wind up in our landfills.

That's about 6000 in the time it takes to read this and a total of 194 thousand yards of cubic landfill space each year...enough to cover an area 50 yards wide by one inch deep stretching the coast from San Francisco to San Luis Obispo.

The problem isn't that Californians are choosing not to recycle. On the contrary, most people, if given the choice of sending their beverage container to a landfill or giving it new life, would choose to recycle and protect the environment. The problem is that California businesses haven't given consumers an opportunity to do so.

What's troubling about this is the fact that starting a recycling program is easy. With a few phone calls and some recycling bins, any business can have a program underway. In some cases, grants are even available through the State Department of Conservation to help offset the cost. In all cases, companies can get money back for the bottles and cans they collect.

The bottom line is that there is little excuse for any business to not provide consumers with a recycling bin.

Indeed, a few proactive organizations in California have taken the initiative to address the problem. Organizations like the Los Angeles Dodgers, Warner Brothers and the California State Parks Association have seen how easy it is to offer recycling. Unfortunately, most businesses are still not doing their part.

So this year, we're asking Californians to take a more active role in making convenient recycling a reality.

Simple consumer activism is one of the most powerful forces in business. When enough people got fed up with the Styrofoam packaging McDonald's used, the company stopped using it. When people started leaving the unnecessary packaging from their CD cases at the music store because it was causing an environmental headache, the recording industry changed its packaging techniques.

How can we make a similar change? For starters, ask for recycling. Next time you're at your local gas station or convenience mart, ask where the recycling bin is. If they don't have one, ask them to put one in. If enough customers ask for a bin, you'll be surprised how fast you start seeing bins pop up. Who knows, if businesses won't give you the opportunity to recycle, maybe you should leave your bottles and cans next to the trash can until they do.

At work, if your company does not have a recycling program, ask why not, and then ask how you can start one. If they tell you it's too difficult, have them visit www.bottlesandcans.com or call 1-800-RECYCLE to find out just how easy it really is.

Finally, follow our lead. This year, the Department of Conservation will be leading the charge by reaching out to California businesses directly and challenging them to provide their customers and employees with recycling bins.

We're going to give them the resources they need to become part of the solution and are confident that with a little additional persuasion from you, good things will happen.

If any state can address the recycling problem effectively, it's California. We already have one of the most innovative approaches to recycling in the country and are looking at ways to make the system even better in 2003. Do your part and ask for recycling. Because it's good for the bottle, it's good for the can. And it's good for all of us.

Darryl Young is the Director of The California Department Of Conservation.

Didn't File Taxes Last Year? Check Your Mail

From Page 1

Each year, the FTB receives more than 160 million income records from third parties such as banks, employers, the Internal Revenue Service, and other sources. The FTB matches these income records against the records of tax returns filed.

This year, some notices will also include a completed tax return. The FTB prepared the return based upon the income information received. If the individual agrees with the figures shown on the return, the person simply signs the return and sends it back for processing. If the individual disagrees with the accuracy of the prepared return, the notice directs the person to complete a new tax return and mail it to the FTB.

The FTB has a Website for those who receive notices, ftb.ca.gov/inc, where they can download tax forms, find answers to frequently asked questions, request more time to respond, and reply to the notice. The FTB's main Website, www.ftb.ca.gov, allows individuals to e-file their returns, view their account status, or pay their taxes electronically. For those who cannot pay their taxes in full, individuals can also request an installment agreement online.

Each year the FTB sends more than 550,000 notices to nonfilers. Individuals can also call (800) 852-5711, if they need to speak to a customer service representative.

Quick and Easy Home Improvement Tips

Many home improvement projects may be easier than you realize. Here are a few hints that can help:

*Fill gaps between walls and trim with paintable latex caulk, using caulking that matches the paint or paint the caulked area to match the wall.

*To obscure scratches on dark furniture, mix 1 teaspoon of instant coffee with 1 teaspoon of water or 1 teaspoon vegetable oil and gently wipe the surface clean. (Don't use this on shellac or antiques.)

*For removing damaged tiles, place a cloth over the damaged piece and carefully iron over it. The heat should loosen the tile and adhesive, making it easier to pry up and replace.

*If bubbles have formed in your vinyl flooring, cut a slit into the center of the bubble, carefully fill it with vinyl floor adhesive, smooth it out and then weigh it down until the adhesive sets.

*When painting furniture, wipe the surface clean with a rag and sand off the gloss with a medium grade sanding pad such as the SandBlasterÖ sponge from 3M. SandBlasterÖ sanding products are made to work three times faster and last three times longer, making the project quick and easy. Next, prime the wood with an oil-based primer and finish with two or three coats of enamel.

*To prevent a wooden dresser drawer from sticking, sand the bottom edges of the drawer sides and the tops of the runners lightly with a medium grit sandpaper.

*When installing carpet runners on stairs, buy an extra 18 inches and tuck the extra material under at the foot of the stairs. When the runner begins to wear, untack it, move it up a few inches, and reattach it.

*If insects have found a tiny hole in your screen and infested your home, seal the hole with shellac or clear nail polish.

*To remove oil stains on your driveway, mix two parts powdered laundry detergent, two parts baking soda, and one part household bleach. Scrub the stain and wash away with a hose. *NAPS*

It's All Between the Lines

Cooperation is required from many for projects such as the new Third Street Light Rail. Here, Charles Ledbetter, Rolando Solis and Jim Kay of PG&E are helping the phone company move their overhead lines to new underground trenches to make way for track construction on Bayshore Boulevard.

Protecting Your Home from Mold and Mildew

It pays for homeowners to protect the value of what may be their biggest investment-their homes. An important step, say experts, is to reduce the number of microbes in a home.

Microbes are tiny organisms such as bacteria and mold. They can damage surfaces in a home- sometimes forcing homeowners to foot expensive repair bills.

The best way to keep microbe levels in your home to a minimum may be to prevent them from growing in the first place. Try these tips:

*Wave Goodbye to Water-Keep an eye on any place in your house where water might be present. Bathroom walls and cabinets under kitchen sinks tend to be breeding grounds for microbes. Keep the areas dry and clean them regularly using a disinfectant.

*Microbe Protection-Some home products-including paint, flooring, tubs, sinks, caulk, grout, and more-are available with built-in Microban« antimicrobial protection. Microban protection inhibits the growth of stain- and odor-causing bacteria, mold and mildew. And because it's built-in during manufacturing it won't wash off or wear, providing continuous antimicrobial protection for the life of the product.

*Basement Blues-Microbes are also often found in basements due to high humidity and flooding. If your basement is particularly damp, you may want to invest in a dehumidifier for the room. In addition, homeowners can help protect basement walls from mold and mildew with Kwik Seal Plus« Basement Paint with Microban protection from DAP«.

For more information on products available with Microban protection, visit www.microban.com. *NAPS*

Town Hall Meeting at Community Center

From Page 1

Recreation and Parks

Despite less than ample funding, Recreation and Parks is still exploring the feasibility of an after school latchkey program at a number of its facilities while pondering the necessity of raising fees, according to Jim Jackson, a district recreation supervisor.

Robert Watkins, a Rec and Parks area supervisor, also reported budget cuts would result in the layoff of 30 department employees. Park patrols, he explained, had already been eliminated as would soon be cashier positions at public swimming pools.

Watkins also updated the status of the new of the new clubhouse being built on Leland Avenue at Cora Street, saying construction was 65 percent complete and would be completed by June. He also reported that demolition of the existing building at Coffman Pool was slated to begin in January 2004 to make way for a new structure, with the facility probably closing one month earlier.

In other reports:

*Officers Lucy Clemons and Lois Perillo of the SFPD reported that mischievous after school vandalism in the Valley had recently declined, while stressing the importance of safety throughout the neighborhood.

*DPW Director Ed Lee explained there is currently a five-year waiting list for the process of relocating utilities underground, with San Bruno Avenue next slated for such work. He also encouraged Valley residents to call 28-CLEAN to report and rectify any problems with illegal dumping on neighborhood streets. Lee encouraged residents to ask for a reference number and a callback when phoning in a request.

DPW is also planning to remove 33 trees and replace them with 132 new trees during construction of the Third Street Light Rail along Bayshore Boulevard between Lois Lane and Sunnydale Avenue.

*DPH reported the Health Commission on Feb. 18 passed a baseline budget cutting $38 million from its department, a move that would reduce neighborhood health services by up to 50 percent.

*Budget cuts from 10 to 30 percent are also looming in the next fiscal year for the S.F. Housing Authority, according to Mike Roetzer, who reported the agency continues to address violence in the Sunnydale complex with two shifts of private security.

Dishwasher Do's and Don'ts

Dishwashers are most effective when used properly. For your dishes to sparkle, follow these tips from Palmolive:

*Do wash with hot water that's between 120 and 140 Fahrenheit.

*Do run hot water in the kitchen sink a minute before running the dishwasher to ensure hot water hits the dishes immediately.

*Do load items according to size; put larger items in the back and smaller ones toward the front.

*Do be sure you're using a product specifically designed for automatic dishwashers; otherwise, you'll be left with a sudsy mess.

*Do use the recommended amount of detergent to be sure dishes are clean.

*Do secure delicate items to avoid breaking or chipping of valuable dishes.

*Do place the dirtiest side of the dish toward the wash action.

*Do place sharp items, such as knives, point down to prevent injury.

*Don't load small items under larger ones.

*Don't place plastics on the bottom rack; they'll melt!

*Don't crowd utensils; they need space to get clean.

*Don't wash hand-painted dishes, cast iron, gold or wooden items.

*Don't rush to unload the dishwasher. They can be left in until they're needed, after they're dry and cool.

*Don't hunch stainless steel and silver in the same basket; direct contact between the two metals can cause permanent damage. *NAPS*

Spring! How Does Your Garden (Business) Grow?

by Brian Hill and Dee Power

The first step is to map out how large an area you want for your garden (business plan) and what types of seeds (new products) you want to plant (launch). You might try starting the plants indoors (test marketing) before exposing them to the perils of he natural elements (retail market). Don't forget to prepare the soil before you plant. You may need some soil amendments (new marketing VP) to give the seeds (products) the best chance of sprouting (being profitable). Some gardener's (CEOs) maintain a compost heap (last year's marketing ideas and mix that into the soil; others say that compost just gives off gas and smells bad. Fertilizer (advertising) is a must. But how much to add (spend)?

You surely don't want to saturate the earth (market) with manure (your commercials). In fact, successful gardening is a matter of carefully regulating (cost controls) all the raw materials you add – nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, even water.

Regulating (managing) the sun (the economy) is out of your control, of course. Some tender sprouts (new products) require more shade (patent protection) than others in order to survive first few critical weeks.

Controlling pests (competitors) is a never ending problem. Some of these fly into your garden (market) from out of state, some simply crawl, after all they are vermin. Trouble is, the more bountiful (profitable) your garden, the more they swarm. To rid your garden of pests, you might try making it bigger and stronger (grow by acquisition). The natural methods of pest control (better service, higher quality products) are usually preferable.

A strong chemical herbicide (price war) might work temporarily, but could do more harm than good in the garden in the long run, and is bad for the overall environment.

As harvest time approaches (year-end), you can look over your garden (company) with great satisfaction. Look at that yield (ROI)! It's a bumper crop (record profits). All that toil and sweat was certainly worth it — right?

Now you can enjoy the fruits of your labors (profit distributions) after you pay a few people back who helped you grow your garden.

Let's see, the garden supply store gets 20 percent of our vegetables, for the tools and seeds you bought. The investors who let you use their land (money) get 45 percent of the crop (investors eat more than normal people). And the government gets 35 percent because...hmmmm...because they sat there at the edge of the garden and watched you work, I guess.

Well, you get to keep the satisfaction.

Brian Hill is co-author with Dee Power of Attracting Capital From Angels

Help Now Available for Dealing with Migraine Headaches

Fewer migraine headaches-and faster relief when they do occur-is in store for millions of Americans, according to a study just published in Annals of Internal Medicine.

Potentially disabling and severely painful migraines afflict 28 million people in the U.S. alone; many migraines are under- treated. Migraine is a chronic condition with recurrent attacks that may occur as often as once or twice a week. Symptoms include: severe, throbbing pain, often felt on one side of the head; nausea, with or without vomiting; sensitivity to light and sound; and an aura-a disturbance in vision consisting of brightly colored or blinking lights in a pattern that moves across the field of vision.

Clinical guidelines from both the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine and the American Academy of Family Physicians suggest that migraine can be treated successfully with aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen sodium, and acetaminophen combined with aspirin and caffeine. If the sufferer doesn't respond to those agents, migraine-specific agents known as triptans and DHE should be used next. The guidelines say that these are the only drugs proven to help relieve migraine symptoms. In addition, proper migraine treatment includes treating the headache rapidly and consistently to avoid recurrence and to get functioning again.

Some steps you should take:

1. See your internist. Don't try to self-medicate your condition; get your headaches properly diagnosed and be a part of the diagnosis. Patients do better when they are actively involved in managing their care.

2. Some migraines can be prevented or significantly reduced if certain medications are used. You may be a candidate for a preventive medicine if you have two or more attacks a month lasting three or more days. Several new migraine treatments have become available over the past decade. You should discuss these with your internist

3. Be involved in your treatment. Identify and avoid migraine triggers, such as certain foods, and track your progress through daily flow sheets or diaries. *NAPS*

Book Reviews

Project Radiohead

A gripping new book, Project Radiohead (1st Books Library, $15.95), by Stephen P. Naghdi with Muriel Wang, examines scientific "research" being conducted today, in a way that's been called reminiscent of George Orwell's classic 1984.

Through a fictional narrative, the book touches on crimes against humanity-accomplished through the use of satellite-controlled microchips-that have been reported around the globe. The authors subscribe to the theory that the freedoms we cherish are being stripped away, with technology now capable of creating a totalitarian "new world order."

Project Radiohead is a compelling psychological thriller about the perilous events that befall a graduate student seeking to find out who caused her mother's death and her father's supposed mental illness.

Looking for Miracles

Twice in her lifetime hospital social worker Joelle D'Angelo has been the recipient of a miracle.

How she finds miracle number three is the story told in Cypress Point (MIRA Books, $6.50) by award-winning author Diane Chamberlain. Now available in paperback, the compelling story draws on Chamberlain's background as a medical social worker to create a memorable, moving page-turner.

The first miracle in Joelle's life took place the day she was born, when she was saved by a woman with incredible healing powers.

The second miracle is that she's finally pregnant after struggling for years with infertility-but the father is her best friend's husband and he must never know.

This complex web of love and guilt brings her to a renowned healer, Carlynn Shire. Shire saved her life all those years before and can help her find the miracle of happiness.

Easy-to-Follow Low Carb Diet Books

For the millions of Americans fed up with not having success with their resolutions to stay on their diet, two new easy-to-follow diet books from New York Times bestselling authors Michael R. Eades, M.D. and Mary Dan Eades M.D. should get a big welcome.

The first, The 30-Day Low-Carb Diet Solution (Wiley, $19.95), could provide the weight-loss diet consumers are looking for. It answers such basic questions as: How many grams of carbs can I have per day? How much protein can I safely eat? How much weight can I lose if I follow the diet? Critics find that the book provides maximum results with minimum fuss and contains high-protein recipes that stop your cravings.

An ideal companion to that book is the Eades' The Low-Carb Comfort Food Cookbook, (Wiley, $24.95) which contains more than 300 recipes to satisfy your comfort-food cravings while keeping you thin. Dieters can find hundreds of ways to indulge their passions for foods they never thought of, such as fried chicken, breads and muffins, pizza, pasta, pies, cakes and many more.

You: Forever Young?

With age comes wisdom it's believed; does oldness have to come with it as well?

According to a new book, the answer is "not necessarily." And that's good news for the 80 million aging baby boomers in the U.S.

In Bill Frank's Forever Young (HarperResource, $24.95), personal trainer and fitness instructor Bill Frank offers proven advice on how to stay active, attractive, healthy and fit, well into the late stages of life. He provides simple but effective "age erasers," including:

*Tapping into the rejuvenating effects of distilled water;

*Taking the best vitamins and supplements for maximum vitality;

*Learning why standing on your head can take years off your appearance; and

*Making the most out of a fitness routine by cycling exercises.

The breezy, informative book includes chapters on restoring youthfulness to skin, increasing energy levels, improving and maintaining sexual performance, toning one's physique, protecting one's bone density, attaining ideal body weight and achieving optimum cardiovascular health and overall fitness. The book also offers solid, prescriptive advice on diet, exercise and a key ingredient-a positive attitude. *MPS*

HUD Outreach Program Offers Housing Guidance

WASHINGTON - A Department of Housing and Urban Development initiative recently announced will allow homebuilders, developers, architects and designers to have access to the latest training and technical guidance on how to comply with accessible design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act.

HUD has dubbed its comprehensive campaign, which includes formal training, a website and a technical guidance resource center, Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST.

"The education and outreach activities of this project will help to make those in the housing industry more aware of their responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act," said Carolyn Y. Peoples, HUD assistant secretary for fair housing and equal opportunity. "Housing discrimination contradicts the principles of freedom and opportunity we treasure as Americans."

According to Peoples, the Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST program is intended to educate and inform people about the Act's requirements before design and construction begins, thus avoiding costly retrofitting by builders and increasing housing opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Training is a major component of HUD's efforts. The training curriculum consists of nine modules that can be presented individually or in any combination. The modules include: an overview of the fair housing act accessibility requirements; disability rights laws; enforcement of the act; strategies for compliant kitchens; strategies for compliant bathrooms; common design and construction violations and solutions; accessible routes; and accessible public and common-use areas.

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Defending Employers' And Employees' Freedom To Contract in California

by Arthur B. Mark III

What if government granted itself "authority" to write the employment contract between you and your employer? What if a state agency could basically dictate the wages, benefits and other compensation that your employer would provide you, whether or not you-or your employer-were satisfied with those terms?

Unfortunately, California enacted such a law last September. But if you're an employer or worker in any industry other than agriculture, you can relax because you're not covered. The new abridgements of the freedom of contract apply only to unionized agricultural employees and employers.

But the fact that it targets only a particular industry doesn't make it fair or constitutional. Because the new law denies basic freedoms, Pacific Legal Foundation filed suit on February 24, challenging its legality.

Entitled "Contract Dispute Resolution," the statute creates a procedure for mandatory, binding arbitration of contract disputes between agricultural growers and unionized employees. Although the law speaks benignly of "mediation"-as if it merely facilitates voluntary agreements-it actually authorizes the state Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) to decree wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment, regardless of the wishes of employers or employees.

Forcing employers and employees to accept a "contract," whether they like it or not, subverts rights protected by both the California and United States Constitutions.

Freedom of contract-the right of both sides to accept or reject the terms and conditions of employment agreements-has been recognized by the California and United States Supreme Courts and by Congress. Collective bargaining was never meant to deny either employers or employees the freedom to reject a contract that either side considered against its best interests. Pacific Legal Foundation is challenging the new law because it flies in the face of these important principles, and because it is a precedent for undermining freedom of contract in other industries.

The law's supporters argue that the process of contract negotiation for farm workers established in 1975 under California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act is "broken." They point out that only 185 of the state's approximately 428 unionized growers have reached contracts with their workers.

But while helping farm workers and their employers negotiate to successful agreements is a laudable goal, it is hardly advanced by depriving both sides of their rights and letting the government unilaterally write their contract.

While it may be true that in 60% of unionized agricultural-work settings, no contract has been reached, that's just another way of saying that in those cases one side or the other has exercised its constitutional right not to accept terms it couldn't live with. How does that fact make a case for government to impose terms and conditions on employees or employers against their will?

Claims that the collective bargaining process is "broken" are far-fetched. In 1999-2000, of the 376 unfair labor practice charges filed with the ALRB, only 10 unfair labor practice complaints were issued. This hardly supports assertions that bad-faith bargaining by employers is pervasive in California agriculture.

Under cover of deceptive language, specious reasoning and misinformation, the state legislature has stripped employers and unionized employees in California's agricultural industry of their fundamental right to contract. Let's hope for their sake, and for all other employers and workers in the state, that the courts strike down this unconstitutional law.

Mr. Mark is an attorney with Pacific Legal Foundation and is part of the litigation team handling the case challenging the forced contract statute. Founded in 1973, Pacific Legal Foundation is a Sacramento-based public interest legal organization litigates for constitutional freedoms, including the right to contract. Read PLF's complaint in Western Growers Association et al. v. ALRB at www.pacificlegal.org.

How Families Can Benefit on Taxes From Child and Dependent Care Credit

Would you like help paying for childcare? The child and dependent care tax credit benefits families who, in order to work or look for work, pay someone to care for a dependent child under age 13. The credit also covers care of a spouse or a dependent of any age who is physically or mentally incapable of self-care.

Tax credits are an excellent way to save on taxes, reports the California Society of CPAs (www.calcpa.org). Unlike deductions, which merely lower the amount of income on which you compute your taxes, credits reduce your tax bill, dollar for dollar. That means a $1,000 deduction in the 30 percent bracket saves you $300, while a $1000 tax credit reduces your taxes by the full $1000.

Almost any type of care qualifies for the credit, regardless of whether it is provided in your home, the residence of a care provider, or at a day care center or child-care facility. However, no credit is allowed for the expense of sending a child or another dependent to an overnight camp. In addition, the caretaker cannot be someone you can claim as your dependent, or a son or daughter under age 19 at the end of the year.

Computing the Amount of Credit

The child and dependent care credit is a percentage, based on your adjusted gross income (AGI), of the amount of work-related child-care expenses you paid during the year. In general, the higher your child-care expenses and the lower your income, the larger your tax credit. You may take the child and dependent care credit even if you do not itemize your deductions.

There is a dollar limit on the expenses toward which you can apply the credit. For 2002, you may use up to $2,400 of the expenses paid for one qualifying individual or $4,800 for two or more qualifying individuals. The percentage of the expenses you can take ranges from a low of 20 percent to a high of 30 percent of expenses paid during the year, depending on your AGI.

Beginning this tax year, the credit becomes even more valuable. For 2003, the maximum amount of qualifying expenses increases from $2,400 to $3,000 for one child and up to $6,000 for two or more children. The maximum percentage of qualifying expenses increases from 30 to 35 percent and the AGI amount at which the credit percentage begins to decrease is $15,000, up from $10,000 in 2002.

Several Limits Apply

To be eligible to claim the tax credit, you (and your spouse, if you are married) must have paid more than half the cost of maintaining the home in which you and the child or dependent lived. Eligible expenses are also limited by your earned income. In the case of a married couple, both spouses must have earned income from wages, salaries, tips, etc., unless one spouse is a full-time student or is physically or mentally incapable of self-care. The earned income of you or your spouse, whichever is lower, determines the maximum amount of expenses eligible. Finally, the credit cannot be claimed by anyone using the married, filing separately status.

Coordinating with Other Tax Benefits

You cannot use both the tax credit and a dependent care Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for the same expenses. If you receive employer-provided dependent care benefits, the amount must be subtracted from the child-care expenses claimed under the credit. For example, if, in 2003, you use a reimbursement account to pay for $3,000 of the cost to care for two children, you may be eligible for a tax credit of $3,000 based on the difference between your FSA contribution and the maximum tax credit for which you qualify. The amount of any employer-provided dependent care benefits should be shown in Box 10 of your W-2 form.

Completing the Paperwork

If you qualify for the child and dependent care credit, you must file either Form 1040 or Form 1040A. If you're filing Form 1040, complete and attach Form 2441 to your return. Form 1040A filers must use Schedule 2. You cannot use Form 1040EZ if you are claiming the child and dependent care credit.

A Caveat from CPAs

CPAs remind you that if you pay someone to care for your dependent or a spouse in your home, you may be a household employer. If you are, you may be required to withhold and pay Social Security and Medicare tax and pay federal unemployment taxes on behalf of the caregiver. Check with a CPA to determine your obligation.

Old Main Library Inscriptions to be Celebrated in Photographic History

The Book Club of California and San Francisco Public Library have jointly published a photographic history of the literary inscriptions from the old Main Library. Inscriptions at the Old Public Library of San Francisco. Edited by Jack W. Stauffacher, this limited edition collector's item will be available at a publication celebration and book signing on Saturday, Apr. 12 at 1 p.m. in the 6th floor Skylight Gallery of the San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin Street in the Civic Center.

This book, honoring the old Main Library's inspirational quotations and author name inscriptions, includes essays by four internationally recognized writers and artists, including historian Gray Brechin, British stone cutter and type designer Michael Harvey and type designer Sumner Stone, placing the inscriptions in context historically, technically, aesthetically and architecturally. Photographer Dennis Letbetter captured images of the interior and exterior inscriptions in March 1997, prior to the reconfiguration of the Old Main into the new Asian Art Museum.

Edward Robeson Taylor, a former mayor, library trustee, physician and poet, and one of the founders of the Book Club of California, selected the twenty-four interior quotations as well as the exterior author's names from classical and contemporary sources. The beautiful Beaux-Arts building, designed by architect George Kelham in 1915, did not include sources for the interior quotations. Books Arts and Special Collections Librarian Andrea Grimes, who wrote the preface to Inscriptions, tracked down twenty-two of the sources, with the help of colleagues. Two still remain anonymous.

Local Youth Library Events

Visitacion Valley Branch, 45 Leland Ave.

*Apr. 1, 22 and 29 at 10:30 a.m.: *Preschool Storytime* for ages 3-5.

*Apr. 9 at 10:30 a.m.: *Preschool Videos*.

*Apr. 12 at 1:30 p.m.: *Nick Barone Puppets Present Puss 'n Boots*, for ages 4-8.

Portola Branch, 2450 San Bruno Ave:

*Apr. 15 at 11 a.m.: *Preschool Crafts Time* for ages 3-5.

*Apr. 26 at 2 p.m.: *Magic Show featuring the "Magic of Chin Chin"* for all ages.

For more information, call 557-4400 or 557-4277.

FREE CERAMICS CLASS

For everyone 18 and older at Visitacion Valley Community Center, 66 Raymond Avenue

Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Very therapeutic and fun. You do not need to stay the entire day...come for as long as you like. We have a wonderful teacher to assist you.

For more information, call Pat at the VCC Senior Program: (415) 467-4499

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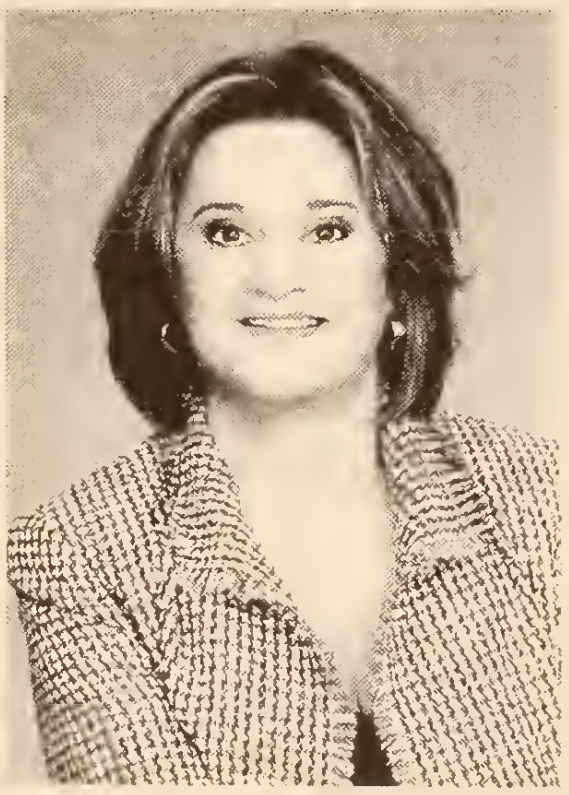

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Fats Domino
Doors
Drifters
Bob Dylan
Eagles
Earth
Wind and Fire
Duane Eddy
Everly
Brothers
Fleetwood Mac
Four Seasons
Four Tops

Historic Proportions

Match clues to answers.

1928

1. Agreement signed Aug. 27 outlawing war.
2. First woman to fly plane over Atlantic Ocean on June 18.
3. Dodge Brothers, Inc. in huge auto merger on May 28.
4. Crowned emperor of Japan on Nov. 10.
5. Barrier break on Mar. 13 killed 400 in resulting flood.
6. He became king of Ethiopia on Oct. 7.
7. Country converted to English alphabet on Apr. 29.
8. His discovery of a bacteria-killing compound on Sept. 15 was a medical breakthrough..
9. Elected President on Nov. 7.
10. U.S. Marines sent here in January to fight guerrilla leader.
11. Pan-American Conference opened here on Jan. 16 with 21 nations.
12. Summer Olympic Games opened here on July 28.
13. World Series winners in four straight games on Oct. 9.
14. American cruise ship sunk off Virginia coast on Nov. 12.
15. About 1,000 were killed here when a volcano erupted on Oct. 9.
16. Winter Olympics held here starting Feb. 11.
17. Warship from Chile sunk July 9 killing 290.
18. Island nation becamer British dominion on Mar. 12.

A. Alexander Fleming
B. Turkey
C. Herbert Hoover
D. Kellogg-Briand Treaty
E. Nicaragua
F. Hirohito
G. Amelia Earhart
H. Malta
I. Amsterdam
J. Angomoa
K. Ras Tafari
L. St. Moritz
M. Vestris
N. Chrysler Corporation
O. Dutch East Indies
P. New York Yankees
Q. St. Francis Dam
R. Havana

Answers 1-D; 2-G; 3-N; 4-F; 5-Q; 6-K; 7-B; 8-A; 9-C; 10-E; 11-R; 12-I; 13-P; 14-M; 15-O; 16-L; 17-J; 18-H.

Five Years Ago In the Grapevine

APRIL 1998

*Two Visitacion Valley residents – Marlene Tran and Ann Williams – announced their candidacy for the County Central Committee Democratic Party, 12th District.

*Demolition was scheduled to begin on the clubhouse located at the northeast corner of Visitacion Valley Playground.

Sez Who?

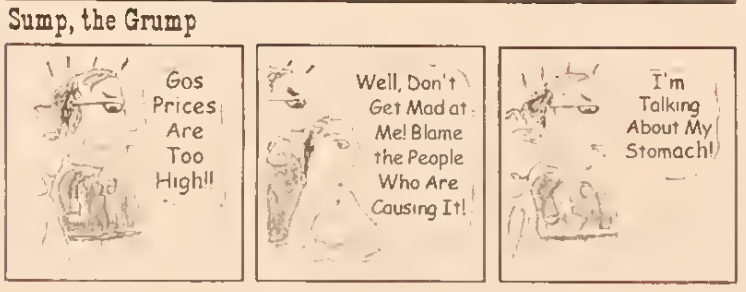
Match quotes to speakers

1. "It's good to have an end to journey toward; but it's the journey that matters in the end."
2. "The winds and waves are always on the side of the ablest navigator."
3. "The persons hardest to convince they're at the retirement age are children at bedtime."
4. "Happiness is a perfume which you can't pour on someone without getting some on yourself."
5. "History is the discovering of the constant and universal principles of human nature."
6. "It is useless to attempt to reason a man out of a thing he was never reasoned into."
7. "Nothing gives one person so much advantage over another as to remain always cool and unruffled under all circumstances."
8. "Make sure that you have finished speaking before your audience has finished listening."
9. "Yesterday is a canceled check; tomorrow is a promissory note; today is only the cash you have, so spend it wisely."

A. Shannon Fife
B. Jonathan Swift
C. Ralph Waldo Emerson
D. Ursula LeGuin
E. Dorothy Samoff
F. Thomas Jefferson
G. Kay Lyons
H. Edward Gibbon
I. David Hume

Answers 1-D; 2-H; 3-A; 4-C; 5-I; 6-B; 7-F; 8-E; 9-G.

Sump, the Grump



Did You Know?

*Here's a financial tip you can take to the bank: debit cards are the smart and savvy way to pay. The debit card is safer than carrying wads of cash, and streamlines monthly budgeting better than a checkbook, while enabling quick purchases on the Internet, over the phone, or at the cash register. Lost or stolen cards come with an added layer of security. By promptly reporting the loss or theft of a card to the financial institution, debit MasterCard cardholders benefit from zero fraud liability protection for unauthorized purchases, an essential layer of comfort for the often frenzied shopper.

*During the prolonged bull market of the '90s, many investors seemed to believe there was no such thing as risk. Investors are increasingly seeking more conservative securities and capital preservation. In that search, they are taking a closer look at municipal bond funds, which offer historically strong returns, comparatively little volatility and none of the headaches of taxes. When stocks fall, bonds, historically, go up. Municipal bonds, therefore, may help preserve wealth by potentially delivering positive returns during volatile equity markets, say experts at Eaton Vance.

*Because a child's brain develops so quickly during the early years, reading, singing, playing and just talking can dramatically improve a child's ability to reach his greatest potential in school, and in life. New parents, grandparents, friends and baby-sitters can make a difference with these fun activities, says Rob Reiner, actor, director and founder of the I Am Your Child foundation. For tips on how to make the most of a child's early years, order the I Am Your Child Foundation video series at www.iamyourchild.org or 1-888-447-3400.

*When superintendent Harold Overmann encouraged students to find an alternative to fossil fuel, they challenged him to do the same. Overmann led the installation at the Spirit Lake Community School District in Iowa of the first large-scale wind turbine in the Midwest and was instrumental in the installation of a second. The turbines annually save $135,000 in energy bills and prevent emissions of tons of pollutants. Overmann is being recognized as an inaugural hero for the Volvo for Life Awards-a national program to seek out and celebrate individuals doing extraordinary things.

*A growing number of people are using the information superhighway to help them get going on the real highway. One of the top automotive Web sites is now offering even more features for car shoppers-whether they're searching for a new vehicle or one that has been previously owned or leased. The National Automobile Dealers Association represents more than 19,400 new car and truck dealers, with more than 49,300 separate franchises, both domestic and import.

*The rain in Spain may fall mainly on the plain, but here in the United States and the rest of the world, it falls more in the cities. This was recently confirmed by NASA researchers, who have, for the first time used a rainfall-measuring satellite to confirm that "urban heat-islands" create more summer rain over and downwind of major cities, including Atlanta, Dallas, San Antonio and Nashville.

*Because of the recent declines in the stock market, many Americans will be forced to lower their expectations for retirement income or even postpone their retirement according to the recently published report Retirement Insecurity: The Income Shortfalls Awaiting the Soon-to-Retire from the Economic Policy Institute. In fact, the University of Michigan's Health and Retirement Study estimates the bear market has wiped away more than $678 billion in retiree wealth over the last two and one-half years. Experts at Bankers Life and Casualty Company suggest that Americans in their 50s and 60s discuss the various savings options with a financial services professional that specializes in the senior market. Bankers Life and Casualty is a 123-year-old company that truly understands specific life-stage needs.

*In the year 2000, 83.9 million adults volunteered for an average of 3.6 hours per week. Yet their work represented the equivalent of more than nine million full-time employees at a value of $239 billion, according to the Independent Sector. In 2001, President Bush called for citizens to devote two years-or the equivalent of 4,000 hours-of their lifetimes in citizen service. Groups like the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network are making it easier for people to answer that call.

*The government has found an ingenious new way to protect more Americans from fire, storms and pollution. Several federal agencies have teamed up with universities to develop new fire and smoke monitoring products. It's all under a program that uses satellites to get better weather and visibility forecasts, firefighting efforts and air quality predictions as smoke and fire events are happening. You can view the system in action and learn more about it online at http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov.

*Intended for children in grades K through 6, a newspaper called KIND News features articles designed to demonstrate the value of kindness and respect to animals, the environment and other children. KIND stands for Kids In Nature's Defense. KIND News is published by the youth education division of The Humane Society of the United States.

*The nation's largest human resource solutions company, Adecco, suggests five tips on how to work smart in the office. Be on time for work and meetings. Dress the part with proper business attire and careful attention to grooming. Complete work ahead of schedule. Always have a "can-do" attitude. Show other people on your team that you value them.

*Software piracy is not a victimless crime, says SPA Anti-piracy, a division of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), which is active in anti-piracy efforts. Experts estimate that the software industry loses billions of dollars every year due to software piracy. Organizations that use illegal software run a high risk of being caught by SIIA and having to pay substantially for violating copyright law. SIIA has several programs dedicated to combating piracy, including its Certified Software Manager (CSM) seminars. It also makes information available at www.spa.org/piracy. Cases of corporate, retail and Internet piracy can be reported on the Internet at www.siia.net/ piracy/report/ default.asp or by calling the Anti-Piracy Hotline: (800) 388-7478.

*Coinstar, which operates a network of more than 10,000 coin-counting machines in supermarkets nationwide, estimates that Americans have $10.5 billion worth of change sitting idle in their homes. On average, that works out to $30 to $50 per American adult. Coinstar machines accept unsorted change and count it at a rate of 600 coins per minute. Coinstar custoemrs receive a printed voucher for the full amount of the transaction (less a service fee of 8.9 percent) that is redeemable for cash or store credit at the cash register or customer service desk.

*An estimated eight out of ten students say they want to one day start a business. While far fewer actually do so, teens are still realistic about what it takes to start one. Now help is available online for these enterprising young people: the Entrepreneur Center, which offers information for students who want to learn about starting, growing and sustaining a business. For information about the Entrepreneur Center, which is part of the Student Center, a new free section on the Junior Achievement Web site, visit www.ja.org or write JA National Headquarters, One Education Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80906. You can also contact the nearest Junior Achievement office.

*With the passage of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, the pre-tax contribution limits have increased. In 2003, individuals can contribute up to $12,000 of pre-tax salary to their 401(k). For those over 50, the IRS allows an additional "catch-up" contribution of $2,000, say the experts at ING. For more information about what a 401(k) means in your retirement plan, and information about diversification, visit the ING Web site at www.ing-usa.com.

*Thanks to an eye in the sky, there may soon be a clearer picture of weather on Earth. Driven by precise new satellite measurements and sophisticated computer models, a team of NASA researchers is now routinely producing the first global maps of fine aerosols that distinguish plumes of human-produced particulate pollution from natural aerosols.

*NASA-funded research using satellite data has shown large icebergs that have broken off from Antarctica's Ross Ice Shelf are dramatically affecting the growth of minute plant life in the ocean around the region-plant life vital to the food chain. To learn more about icebergs and NASA's research, visit http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov.

As a Matter of Fact

*Abraham Lincoln was the only president to receive a patent. It was for a device for lifting boats over shoals.

*Mongooses were brought to Hawaii to kill rats. The plan failed because rats are nocturnal and the mongoose hunts during the day.

*An old law in Bellingham, Washington made it illegal for a woman to take more than three steps backwards while dancing.

*In the Middle Ages, animals were often blamed for misfortune and were sometimes taken to court for their crimes. The proceedings usually culminated in a sentence to death despite the efforts of defending lawyers. A group of leeches, tried in Lausanne in 1451, were allowed to live but were sternly warned to leave the district within three days.

*If the average man had a metabolism comparable to a hummingbird, he would have to eat 285 pounds of hamburger every day to maintain his weight.

*The Uilleann pipe id a type of bagpipe native t Ireland. It is normally played while seated. It has a range of up to two octaves.

*In ancient Rome and in some parts of England, nuts were offered to a bride and groom as they left the church after marrying.

*Isaac Asimov is the only author to have a book in every major category of the Dewy Decimal System.

*In Britain, a good crop of nuts in a district was once thought to indicate that a large number of births would take place.

*Martin Van Buren took his salary as president over four years in a lump sum at the end of his term. It came to $100,000.

*A raw onion carried in the hand is supposed to protect aainst snakes, who are commonIt thought to dislike the smell of onions.

*Both humans and chimps have equal amounts of hair per surface area. Chimps hair is heavier.

*In circus slang, paper money is called alfalfa.

*According to Celtic legends, the hazel tree is the tree of knowledge.

*In some parts of Scotland, it was considered bad luck to sing while baking bread.

*Franklin Pierce is the only President to have said "I promise" instead of "I swear" at his inauguration.

*An advance man who works one day ahead of a circus is called a 24-Hour-Man.

*Hush puppies are so called, it's said, because fried cornmeal batter was used to hush hungry dogs that begged for food.

**Stewardesses* is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.

*Original copies of *Gone With the Wind* weighed three pounds and contained 1,037 pages.

*An iguana can stay under water for 28 minutes.

*The parachute was almost invented by Leonardo da Vinci in 1515. However, his prototype failed – it had no air hole at the top.

*At any given time, there are 1,800 thunderstorms in progress over the earth's atmosphere.

*Ants stretch when they wake up. They also appear to yawn in a very human manner before taking up the tasks of the day.

*In 18th century Maine, lobster was so plentiful it was commonly used as fertilizer.

*Three out of four of all the tornados occur in the U.S.

*A kangaroo can't jump unless its tail is touching the ground.

*The opening to a cave where a bear hibernates is always on the north slope.

*In the major leagues, a baseball has an average life span of seven pitches.

*The turkey was wrongly named for the country thought to be the place of its origin.

*It takes 40 minutes to boil an ostrich egg.

*Half of the labor force will he over 40 by the year 2005.

*An order of birdseed in a diner is really an order of cereal.

*Since 1600, 109 species and subspecies of birds have become extinct.

Visitacion Valley Police Log

*Feh 1 9 58 a.m., 3500 block of San Bruno Ave , robbery of commercial estahlishment with gun

*Feb 3 8 a m , 100 block of Garrison Ave., hurglary of residence, unlawful entry.

*Feb. 4 11 a m., 3900 block of San Bruno Ave., burglary of residence, forcible entry

*Feb. 4 6 30 p m., 000 block of Delta St , hurglary, forcible entry

*Feb. 5: 6 p m., 400 block of Raymond Ave., burglary, forcible entry

*Feb 7. 10 p.m., 200 block of Leland Ave., grand theft from locked auto

*Feh 9 8.25 a.m., 100 block of Blythdale Ave., robbery, armed with gun

*Feb. 10 4:30 p m., 600 block of Sunnydale Ave., rohbery, bodily force

*Feh 11 7.30 a m., 2100 block of Bayshore Blvd , burglary of residence, forcible entry

*Feh. 11. 6 30 p m., 300 hlock of Wilde Ave., grand theft from locked auto

*Feb. 12: 8:44 a.m., 200 block of Santos St., grand theft of property.

*Feb 13 11.30 a m , 1300 block of Goettingen St , burglary of residence, unlawful entry

*Feb 14 1 12 p.m., 100 block of Harkness Ave , robbery on street with gun.

*Feb. 17. 3 t0 p.m., Santos St & Blythdale Ave., attempted robbery on street with bodily force

*Feb. 18. 7:30 a.m., 000 hlock of Tucker Ave., burglary of residence, unlawful entry.

*Feb 18 12.30 p.m., 400 block of Raymond Ave., grand theft from building.

*Feb. 19 7:37 a.m., 000 block of Alpha St., burglary of residence, forcible entry.

*Feb. 19: 12 45 p.m., 600 block of Campbell Ave., rohbery of residence with bodily force.

*Feb. 19: 2 p.m., Delta St. & Raymond Ave., robbery on street, strongarm

*Feb 19 2 p.m., Schwerin St. & Garrison Ave., aggravated assault with gun.

*Feb. 20 3 a.m., 000 block of Arleta Ave., grand theft from locked auto

*Feb. 20: 7 p.m., Campbell Ave & Brussels St., grand theft from locked auto

*Feb 22: 12:02 a m., Bayshore Blvd & Arleta Ave., aggravated assault with gun.

*Feb 22: 11:05 p.m., 000 block of Brookdale Ave., robbery on street, strongarm.

*Feb. 23 3 p.m., 400 block of Raymond Ave , burglary, store under construction, forcible entry

*Feb 23 8 p.m., 100 block of Tioga Ave., grand theft from locked auto

*Feb 24. 8 p.m , 400 block of Raymond Ave., burglary, forcible entry

*Feb. 26 6:41 a m., 000 block of Brookdale Ave., attempted robbery with bodily force

*Feb. 26 7:45 a.m , 3500 block of San Bruno Ave., burglary of apartment house, forcible entry

Recipe Corner

Fast Lane Chicken And Potato Chowder

Prep: 10 min; Cook: 20 min; Makes 6 servings

1 package Chicken Helper« Oven Favorites« Potatoes Au Gratin, 1 can (11 ounces) Green Giant« Mexicorn« whole kernel corn with red and green peppers, undrained; 2 cups water; 3 cups milk; 2 cups cut-up cooked chicken or turkey (about 10 ounces), 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (4 ounces); 6 large round crusty dinner rolls.

1 Heat uncooked Potatoes, Sauce Mrx, Au Gratin Cheese Sauce Topping, corn, water, milk and chicken to boiling in Dutch oven, stirring constantly, reduce heat

2. Cover and simmer 15 minutes or until potatoes are tender.

3 Stir in Cheddar cheese, sprinkle with bread crumb topping. Scoop out inside of each dinner roll to make bread bowl Serve chowder in bread howls.

High Altitude (3,500-6,500 feet). Increase water to 3 cups.

Special Touch

Add even more interest to this chowder by topping with sour cream, Bac~Os« bacon flavor hits or chips, salsa or shredded Monterey Jack cheese with jalape±o peppers. *NAPS*

From the D.A.'s Office

Security Guard Arrested For Grand Theft, Perjury And Insurance Fraud

Jose Ahman Villatoro, formerly a security guard for ABC Security of Oakland, was arrested at his home in East Palo Alto on Feb 12 and booked on charges of grand theft, insurance fraud and perjury.

Mr Villatoro had claimed that he was injured in his lower back and right leg while lifting a fare box of coins from a transit bus at Sam Trans in South San Francisco on May 14, 1999. Since then, Mr Villatoro collected disability benefits through Workers' Compensation even while he worked for two stores as a security guard in downtown San Mateo under his own security business known as "Force One Privated (sic) Security Officer Service."

Mr. Villatoro also falsely testified - under oath - in a hearing before the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board on Apr. 12, 2000, that, since his injury, he had not done any kind of work, had no income coming in, was unable to walk or stand for any length of time, and that he had not worked for himself in his own business. Field investigators, both before and after the Apr 12 hearing, took video tape of Mr Villatoro walking, standing, bending, driving and riding in an automobile, and working as a uniformed security guard in San Mateo. Follow up inquiries with the merchant who hired Villatoro, confirmed that he had paid him for his security service.

Mr Villatoro was arraigned on Feb. 13, 2003, in the San Francisco Superior Court, for five counts of perjury, and one count each of insurance fraud, false claim for payment under a contract of insurance, and grand theft Senior District Attorney Investigator Charles Oatridge is the investigator on the case and made the arrest David Moon prosecuted the case.

Former UCSF Employee Pleads Guilty of Theft

Marie Taliaferro on Feb. 20 plead guilty to charges that she stole $4 5 million dollars in cash from University of California at San Francisco Taliaferro, 57, plead guilty to all 21 felony counts contained in an indictment returned against her and her daughter, Christine Taliaferro The indictment was returned in April 2001 by the San Francisco Criminal Grand Jury

Charges included theft of public funds, grand theft, money laundering, and tax evasion. Sentencing was set for May 23, 2003

Taliaferro, a 17-year employee of UCSF, was employed as the head cashier for the campus. According to the grand jury transcripts, Ms Taliaferro walked out of the cashier's office with approximately $4 5 million dollars in cash starting in 1995 and continuing through May 1999 Witnesses said that Taliaferro habitually carried at least one arge bag with her into the cashier's office. It is believed that she filled these bags with stacks of stolen cash ranging from $9,000 to $15,000 per day. She then deposited the cash into 11 bank accounts around the Bay Area in the names of herself, her son, daughter, husband and Solimar Inc

More than $2.5 million dollars was deposited into the bank accounts of Solimar Inc., a start-up company owned and operated by Marie and Christina Taliaferro. The company is located in Lafayette. Solimar operated a retail gallery that sold angel-related items and published a magazine entitled *Solimar, Living in the New Millennium* Two editions were published featuring Kenny Loggins and Kathleen Noone on the covers.

Taliaferro unexpectedly requested that the court allow her to enter guilty pleas to all charges in the midst of jury selection.

Taliaferro is free on $350,000 bail and was represented by the San Francisco Public Defender's Office. She lives in Moraga. If convicted, she could be sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Suit Against Marketer Of Ephedra-Based Dietary Supplement

California prosecutors have filed a false advertising suit against the marketer of an Ephedra-based dietary supplement.

District attorneys in San Francisco, Alameda, Kern, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito and Sonoma counties and the city attorney of San Diego announced Mar 10 that as a result of an extensive investigation, they have filed a civil suit against Cytodyne Technologies, Inc., and its corporate officer, Robert Chinery, to halt alleged deceptive advertising and other unfair and unlawful business practices involved in California sales of Xenadrine RFA-1, a dietary supplement that contains Ephedra.

The complaint, filed in Napa County Superior Court, alleges that Cytodyne and Chinery made false and misleading claims about the safety of Xenadrine, and about the ability of Xenadrine to burn fat, cause weight loss, preserve muscle tone and muscle mass, and increase strength, energy and endurance. The defendants allegedly touted Xenadrine RFA-1 as clinically proven to increase fat loss by "an astounding 17 times" more than diet and exercise alone

The suit also alleges that defendants' advertisements conspicuously failed to disclose a known association between the use of dietary supplements containing Ephedra and such adverse effects as death, heart attack, stroke, cardiac arrhythmia, hypertension and seizures.

Finally, the suit alleges that all such claims, and other alleged instances of false and misleading advertising, constitute unfair business practices under California law. The suit seeks an injunction prohibiting defendants from making illegal claims about the safety and efficacy of Xenadrine RFA-1 without having a reliable scientific basis for such claims, and civil penalties of up to $5,000 for each deceptive advertisement and each unfair or illegal business practice

Grapevine Want Ads

VOLUNTEERS WANTED for VVCC After School Program to tutor children ages 5-14 at one of our 11 sites in the Visitacion Valley area. Interested persons contact Dee Smith, VVCC After School coordinator: (415) 585-2059.

A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY. The John McLaren Child Development Center seeks in-kind donations for our newly-created lending library children's books and magazines, small children's furniture, writing and/or art supplies, educational/cultural games or posters. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity! Please send all donations to John McLaren Child Development Center, 2055 Sunnydale Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134 Call 469-4519 if you would like for us to pick-up any materials

GRAPEVINE 15TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE featuring a 10-page history of Visitacion Valley is still available in limited amount. Contact the Grapevine at 467-9300 By mail, single copies are $1 each. Send to: Visitacion Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134

GRAPEVINE DISPLAY ADVERTISING now half off regular rates for a limited time. Full Page $75, 1/2 Page $40, 1/4 Page $22 50; 1/8 Page $12 50; 1/12 Page $7 50 Discount for three or more insertions Call (415) 467-9300 for more details *Want Ads:* 20 words for $1. Extra line 50 cents. Ad and payment should be received by 15th of prior month at Visitacion Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134

MUNI LIGHT RAIL IS COMING OUR WAY!

Visitacion Valley Jobs, Education and Training programs will be conducting workshops on how to get into one of 26 building trade apprenticeship programs. For information on enrolling in one of these state-approved and paid training programs, contact Ann Williams for orientation and intake dates at VVJET, (415) 239-2866.

San Francisco City Services

ABANDONED CARS	781-JUNK
ANIMAL CONTROL	554-6364
BUS SHELTER DAMAGE	882-4949
CITY TREES (trimming)	695-2162
CRIME-STOPPERS (anonymous)	1-800-2GIVEINFO
DOMESTIC/FAMILY VIOLENCE	864-4722
DPW (days)	695-2017, (nights/weekends) 895-2020
EMERGENCY SERVICES	9-1-1
EMERGENCY SERVICES (cell-phone)	563-8090
GARBAGE SERVICE COMPLAINTS	255-3610
GRAFFITI CLEANUP (DPW)	241-WASH
GRAFFITI SUSPECT INFO	553-1603
INGLESIDE STATION (Anonymous)	333-3433) 553-1603
LELAND AVENUE RESOURCE CENTER	556-2575
MAYOR'S OFFICE	554-7111
MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES	554-6510
NARCOTICS TIP LINE (anonymous)	1-800-CRACKDT
PARKING AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS (DPT)	553-1200
POLICE (non-emergency)	553-0123
POTHOLE REPAIR	695-2100
SAFE (neighborhood watch groups)	673-SAFE
STREET LIGHTING (CITY) (out of order)	554-0830
STREET LIGHTING PG&E (woodpoles)	663-3201
SUNNYDALE RESOURCE CENTER	586-7572
TRAFFIC SIGNALS (out of order)	550-2736
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING	554-2300
VVMS ANNONYMOUS HOTLINE	281-8406

San Francisco City Meetings

Aging 1st Wed 9:30a, Airport 1st/3rd Tu 3p, Arts 1st Mon 3p, Education 2nd/4th Tu 7p, Health Fair 3rd Tu 3p, Housing Auth 2nd/4th Th 4p, Human Rights 1st/3rd Th 4:30p, Library 1st Tu 5:30p, Planning 1st Th 1:30p, Police Wed 5:30p, Port 1st Tu/3rd Wed 4:30p, Public Utilities 2nd/4th Tu 2p, Rec & Park 3rd Th 2p, Social Services 4th Th 9a, Status Women 4th Th 4p, Supervisors Mon 2p

Visitacion Valley Community Center

Mondays: Senior Shopping 11:30 a.m., Tuesdays: Senior Ceramics 9:30 a.m-4p.m, Senior Bingo 12:30 p.m., **Thursdays:** Sewing Class 9 a.m-3 p.m

VVCC Regular Board Meeting is held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 5 p.m

Visitacion Valley Business Directory

Valley business and organization free listings in the 415 area code. Call the Grapevine at (415) 467-9300.

AQUARIUMS
ASIAN DISCUS AQUARIUM, 130 Leland Ave , 333-0772

AUTOMOTIVE
BAYSHORE AUTO, 2260 Bayshore Blvd , 467-6130
BAYSHORE SERVICE (mechanic) 2596 Bayshore Blvd , 239-5239
CHARLIE'S GARAGE . 2550 Bayshore Blvd , 239-7450
TW AUTOMOTIVE (mechanic), 2500 Bayshore Blvd , 585-8281
VALLEY AUTO & TRUCK SUPPLY (Bill Conte), 2520 Bayshore Blvd , 239-5880

BANK
BANK OF AMERICA, 6 Leland Ave , 622-4501

BAKERS
CUNEO BAKERY, 96 Leland Ave , 239-6090
LITTLE QUIAPO BAKE SHOP, 169 Leland Ave , 239-2253

BARBERS
DeMASI'S BARBER SHOP, 35 Leland Ave
THE SHOP (JB), 178 Leland Ave , 239-6709

BEAUTICIANS
ANGEL COIFFURES, 5 Leland Ave . 239-9891
BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT, 222 Leland Ave., 333-7261
MAY MAY BEAUTY SALON 60 Leland Ave , 337-9381
MIZ RENA'S SALON 19 Blanken Ave , 467-3399
NAILS BY JENNY, 50 Leland Ave . 333-6800
WHO'S BADD, 224 Leland Ave , 657-3156

BLIND CLEANING
SPEEDY ULTRASONIC BLIND CLEANING (commercial and residential), 1116 Girard St , 467-7506

BOARDING HOUSE
ABLE'S CASA, 850 Rutland St . 333-4664, fax 333-4693

BOOKKEEPERS
AMY ARAGON, PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER 467-8927
VERNA WALLACE E A 2320 Bayshore Blvd . 239-5333

CARPETS
HANSAN INTERIORS, 41 Leland Ave . 333-6382

CASKETS
CASKETORIUM INC , 93 Leland Ave . 585-3451

CHURCHES
CHURCH OF THE VISITACION, 655 Sunnydale Ave , 239-5950
IGLESIA EL ESPIRITU SANTO, 38 Leland Ave
KOREAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 333 Tunnel Ave . 468-1213
RIDGE VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 590 Leland Ave , 239-5457
ST JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 240 Leland Ave , 586-6381
VALLEY BARTIST CHURCH, 305 Raymond Ave , 467-6055
VISITACION CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 Desmond St , 333-4503

CLOTHING
SPONA, 9 Leland Ave . 239-9631

COFFEE
HARPY DONUT, 2600 Bayshore Blvd , 469-5309
PICCOLO PETE'S EUROPEAN COFFEE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd , 467-2442

CONCESSIONS
SEAN'S REFRESHMENTS, 138 Rutland St

DAY CARE
CAROUSEL DAY CARE, 261 Hahn St , 469-5353

DENTIST
VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE (Albert Kuan, DDS), 37 Leland Ave , 239-5500

DEVELOPERS
GENEVA VALLEY DEVELOPMENT CORP ,333 Schwenn St . 587-7895

ELECTRICAL
TATE ELECTRIC (Joel Tate), 467-4657

FLORISTS
IL FIORE FLOWERS, 2466 San Bruno Ave 468-0145

GARDEN ORNAMENTS
SILVESTRI GARDEN ORNAMENTS, 2635 Bayshore Blvd . 239-5990

GROCERS
E-Z STOP MARKET, 2203 Geneva Ave . 585-9240
FIVE MILE MARKET, 3574 San Bruno Ave , 467-7300
K.C. MARKET, 400 Wilde St , 467-3024
LITTLE VILLAGE MARKET, 1450 Sunnydale Ave , 586-1815
M & M SHORTSTOR, 2145 Geneva Ave , 585-0878
PICCOLO PETE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 468-6800
SARI-SARI FOOD STORE, 58 Leland Ave , 239-0580
7-11, 2200 Bayshore Blvd . 468-8646
SHUN LEE MARKET, 2400 Bayshore Blvd , 586-4851
SMITTY'S MARKET 2610 Bayshore Blvd , 239-5506
SUPER FAIR MARKET, 201 Leland Ave , 239-6856
TEDDY'S MARKET, 298 Teddy Ave
VALLEY SUPER MARKET, 65 Leland Ave , 239-7520

HERBS
SAN ON HERBS, 33-A Leland Ave 333-7469

HYPNOTHERAPY
VALERIE HABEGGER-HYPNOTHERAPY, 371 Teddy Ave . 468-5631

INSURANCE
ROBERT LEHMAN CLTC, CMFC, 333-0850

KITCHEN CABINETS
LEE CHANG INTERNATIONAL, INC., 25 Leland Ave , 333-2730, fax 333-1706

LAUNDRY/CLEANERS
BAY WASH, 44 Leland Ave
CITY WASH INTERNATIONAL, 83 Leland Ave , 333-9467
COIN WASH & DRY LAUNDRY, 186 Leland Ave
FORTY-NINER CLEANERS (David Chan), 51 Leland Ave . 239-6418
LELAND AVENUE CLEANERS, 151 Leland Ave ,586-1412
VALLEY LAUNDRY, 90 Leland Ave
VISITACION VALLEY LAUNDRY, 108 Leland Ave , 239-9030

LEARNING
3-N-1 LEARNING ACADEMY, 240 Leland Ave 584-8555
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY BEACON CENTER, 450 Raymond Ave , 452-4907
VISITACION VALLEY FAMILY SCHOOL, 325 Leland Ave , 585-9320

LIBRARY
VISITACION VALLEY BRANCH, 45 Leland Ave , 239-5270

LODGING
THRIFTLODGE, 2011 Bayshore Blvd . 467-8811

MANUFACTURER
NATION WIDE PAPER, 345 Schwerin St , 586-9160

MEDICAL
AMERICAN RED CROSS, BAY AREA CHAPTER, 1704 Sunnydale Ave , 584-3620
HAWKINS VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINIC (Dept of Public Health), 333 Schwenn St Appointments 715-0310
DR SAM HO, MD, 9 Silliman St No 4, 337-6135
NORTH EAST MEDICAL SERVICES, LELAND AVENUE, 82 Leland Ave , 391-9686 (ask for Leland Avenue clinic)
PORTOLA FOOT & ANKLE CLINIC (Dr Divyang Patel) 2858 San Bruno Ave 467-7500

NOTARY
ROYAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE & REALTY, 46 Leland Ave , 333-4900

ORGANIZATIONS
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER, 2442 Bayshore Blvd . 587-2689
GENEVA TERRACE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, 60 Burr Ave . 584-2700
GIRLS AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY, 2050 Sunnydale Ave , 333 Schwenn St , 584-4044
JOHN KING SENIOR COMMUNITY, 500 Raymond Ave . 239-6233
LELAND HOUSE, 141 Leland Ave . 405-2000
VISITACION VALLEY SENIOR CENTER, 66 Raymond Ave , 467-4499

PHARMACY
VISITACION VALLEY PHARMACY 100 Leland Ave 239-5811

PHOTOGRAPHER
WALTER CORBIN PHOTOGRAPHY (freelance) 435 Sawyer St . 587-9471, fax 337-8620

PLUMBING
MARK VOELKER PLUMBING (Residential) 467-7411

POST OFFICE
VISITACION USPO, 58 Leland Ave , (800) 275-8777

REAL ESTATE
Cathy Nina Saunders (Zephyr Real Estate) 715 West Portal Ave 731-5011 ex 163

RESTAURANTS
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HONG YUN RESTAURANT 73 Leland Ave , 239-5586
SUN FAI RESTAURANT 30 Leland Ave 587-2763
LUAN FAT BAKERY 110 Leland Ave , 585-1167
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SHIREL'S SOUL FOOD 107 Leland Ave 239-5141
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DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENTS (Maryann Ann Williams, CEO, Career and Self-Enhancements Specialist) 467-7608

SERVICE PROVIDERS
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VISITACION VALLEY BILINGUAL EDUCATION, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & TRAINING (VVBESST), 120 Leland Ave , 586-7347
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER (VVCC), 50 Raymond Ave 467-6400
VVCC CHILDREN'S PROGRAM, 161 Leland Ave 586-6998, Fax 586-8027
VISITACION VALLEY JOBS EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VVJET), 333 Schwenn St , 239-2866

SIGNS
SMITH'S SIGNS 153 Leland Ave 333-2700

TAVERN
THE CLUB HOUSE 25 Blanken Ave

VIDEO
SIN FUNG VIDEO, 144 Leland Ave 586-1038

IRS Updates Warning Of 12 Common Scams

WASHINGTON - In an update of an annual consumer alert, the Internal Revenue Service urged taxpayers to avoid falling victim to one of the *Dirty Dozen* tax scams. In the new 2003 ranking, several new scams have reached the top of the consumer watch list, including offshore banking and identity theft schemes.

"With the tax season in full swing, we're seeing the traditional upswing in tax trickery," said IRS Acting Commissioner Bob Wenzel. "Year after year, con artists across the nation try pulling a fast one on honest taxpayers with different types of miracle tax solutions. Don't be fooled by the *Dirty Dozen* and other misleading scams. There is no secret way to get out of paying taxes."

The IRS and other federal agencies are aggressively pursuing and successfully prosecuting promoters of these schemes and many of their clients for fraud and tax evasion. These can result in imprisonment, fines and repayment of taxes owed with interest and penalties. Even innocent taxpayers involved in these schemes can face a staggering amount of back interest and penalties. Taxpayers who suspect tax fraud can report it to the IRS at 1-800-829-0433.

The IRS urges people to avoid these common schemes:

1. *Offshore Transactions.* Some people use offshore transactions to avoid paying United States income tax. Use of an offshore credit card, trust or other arrangement to hide or underreport income or to claim false deductions on a federal tax return is illegal.

Through Apr. 15, the IRS is offering people with improper offshore financial arrangements a chance to make things right. Eligible taxpayers who step forward will not face civil fraud and information return penalties. A taxpayer involved in these schemes who does not come forward now, however, will be subject to payment of taxes, interest, penalties and potential criminal prosecution. People interested in participating in the program, called the Offshore Voluntary Compliance Initiative, can contact the IRS by calling 215-516-3537 (not toll-free).

2. *Identity Theft.* Identity thieves use someone's personal data to steal his or her financial accounts, run up charges on the victim's existing credit cards, apply for new loans, credit cards, services or benefits in the victim's name and even file fraudulent tax returns. The IRS is aware of at least two recent identity theft scams involving taxes or the IRS. In one, tax preparers allegedly used information, such as Social Security numbers and financial information, from their clients' tax returns to commit identity theft. In another, fraudsters sent bank customers fictitious bank correspondence and IRS forms in an attempt to trick them into disclosing their personal and banking data. For taxpayers, it pays to be choosy about disclosing personal and financial information. And the IRS encourages taxpayers to carefully select a reputable tax professional.

3. *Phony Tax Payment Checks.* In this scheme, con artists sell fictitious financial instruments that look like checks to pay a tax liability, mortgage and other debts. The con artists may also counsel their clients to use a phony check to overpay their taxes so they can receive a refund from the IRS for the overpayment. The false checks, called sight drafts, are worthless and have no financial value. It is illegal to use these sight drafts to pay a tax liability or other debts.

4. *African-Americans Get a Special Tax Refund.* Thousands of African Americans have been misled by people offering to file for tax credits or refunds related to reparations for slavery. There is no such provision in the tax law. Some unscrupulous promoters have encouraged clients to pay them to prepare a claim for this refund. But the claims are a waste of money. Promoters of reparations tax schemes have been convicted and imprisoned. And taxpayers could face a $500 penalty for filing such claims if they do not withdraw the claim.

In early 2002, the slavery reparations scam ranked as the No. 1 scheme on the Dirty Dozen list. Following a sweeping public outreach campaign and assistance from members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other organizations, the number of reparation scam claims fell sharply. Tens of thousands of claims were received in 2001, but the claims fell to less than 50 per week in 2002.

5. *No Taxes Withheld from Wages.* Illegal schemes are being promoted that instruct employers not to withhold federal income tax or employment taxes from wages paid to their employees. These schemes are based on an incorrect interpretation of tax law and have been refuted in court. A recent flurry of court actions has been taken against promoters of these schemes. Taxpayers who have concerns about their employer and employment taxes can get help by calling the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

6. *Improper Home-Based Business.* This scheme purports to offer tax "relief" but in reality is illegal tax avoidance. The promoters of this scheme claim that individual taxpayers can deduct most, or all, of their personal expenses as business expenses by setting up a bogus home-based business. But the tax code firmly establishes that a clear business purpose and profit motive must exist in order to generate and claim allowable business expenses.

7. *Pay the Tax, Then Get the Prize.* The caller says you've won a prize, and all you have to do to get it is to pay the income tax due. Don't believe it. Someone who really wins a prize may need to make an estimated tax payment to cover the taxes that will be due at the end of the year. But the payment goes to the IRS â " not the caller. Whether the prize is cash, a car or a trip, a legitimate prize giver generally sends both the winner and the IRS a Form 1099 showing the total prize value that should be reported on the winner's tax return.

8. *Frivolous Arguments.* Frivolous arguments are false arguments that are unsupported by law. When a scheme promoter says "don't pay taxes, why should you" or urges you to 'untax yourself for $49.95," beware. These scams are as old as snake oil, but people continue to be taken in. And now they're on the Internet. The ads may say that paying taxes is "voluntary," but that's just plain wrong. The U.S. courts have continuously rejected this and other frivolous arguments. Unfortunately, hundreds of people across the country have paid for the "secret" of not paying taxes or have bought "untax packages." Then they find out that following the advice contained in them can result in civil and/or criminal penalties. Numerous sellers of the bogus schemes have been convicted on criminal tax charges.

9. *Social Security Tax Scheme.* Taxpayers shouldn't fall victim to a scam offering refunds of the Social Security taxes they have paid during their lifetimes. The scam works by the victim paying a "paperwork" fee of $100, plus a percentage of any refund received, to file a refund claim with the IRS. This hoax fleeces the victims for the up-front fee. The law does not allow such a refund of Social Security taxes paid. The IRS processing centers are alert to this hoax and have been stopping the false claims.

10. *"I Can Get You a Big Refund...for a Fee!"* Refund scheme operators may approach someone wanting to "borrow" their Social Security number or give him or her a phony W-2 so it appears that the person qualifies for a big refund. They may promise to split the refund with that person, but the IRS catches most of these false refund claims before they go out. And when one does go out, the participant usually ends up paying back the refund along with stiff penalties and interest. Two lessons to remember: 1) Anyone who promises someone a bigger refund without knowing their tax situation could be misleading them, and 2) Never sign a tax return without looking it over to make sure it's honest and correct.

11. Share/Borrow EITC Dependents. Unscrupulous tax preparers "share" one client's qualifying children with another client in order to allow both clients to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit. For example, one client may have four children but only needs to list two to get the maximum EITC. The preparer will list two children on the first client's return and the other two on another client's tax return. The preparer and the client "selling" the dependents split a fee. The IRS prosecutes the preparers of such fraudulent claims, and participating taxpayers could be subject to civil penalties.

12. *IRS "Agent" Comes to Your House to Collect.* First, do not let anyone into your home unless they identify themselves to your satisfaction. IRS special agents, field auditors and collection officers carry picture IDs and will normally try to contact you before they visit. If you think the person on your doorstep is an imposter, lock your door and call the local police. To report IRS impostors, call the Treasury Inspector General's Hotline at 1-800-366-4484.

Beyond the *Dirty Dozen*, the IRS sees many more tax schemes. Some examples include home-based business scams, disabled access credit for pay phones and a variety of improper abusive trusts.

"The best advice for taxpayers is to remember the concept of *buyer beware*," Wenzel said. "Think carefully before paying for services or signing important documents. And don't be fooled by outrageous promises. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

New Tax Rules Could be Helpful to IRAs

New changes to the tax code could help people's IRAs grow and make saving for college easier. That's why analysts say it's important to not only know what your IRA is up to, but to stay up-to-date on financial laws as well.

The news is significant, as millions of Americans use IRAs, or Individual Retirement Accounts, to help finance retirement. The plans let people save pretax dollars in an account, where the money can earn tax-deferred interest. No taxes are due on the money until it is taken out of the account, making IRAs an inexpensive and popular way to save.

According to experts at Indy- Mac Bank, significant changes to 2002 tax law include:

Traditional And Roth IRA

•Annual contribution limit has been raised from $2,000 to $3,000. A "catch up" feature for people who are over age 50 raises the limit to $3,500.

•After-tax contributions can now be rolled over into a traditional IRA.

•New contribution tax credits are allowed for qualified individuals.

SEP IRA

•Contributions of up to $40,000 per participant, or up to 25 percent of compensation are now allowed.

•Employers may now deduct contributions of up to 25 percent.

•New tax credit for qualifying employers.

Qualified Plan

•Employers may deduct profit-sharing contributions up to 25 percent.

•New tax credits are allowed for qualifying small employers.

Coverdell Education Savings Account

•Annual contribution limit has been raised from $500 to $2,000.

•New "Qualified Education Expenses" include computers and Internet service.

•New extended age limit for contributions for "Special Needs" individuals.

•Contribution deadline is now April 15 or your tax filing deadline.

•Qualified family beneficiaries now include first cousins.

For information on ways to use the tax-law changes to your benefit, consult your tax adviser or call IndyMac Bank at 1-800-998-2900. *NAPS*

Saturdays are Special At Randall Museum

The Randall Museum offers drop-in, hands-on art and science workshops every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). All ages are welcome; under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Museum admission is free with $3 per person workshop fee. Call 554-9600 for further information.

•Apr. 5: *Sweet Saches:* Make a sweet-smelling sachet for a gift or yourself.

•Apr. 12: *Spring Flower Fairy:* Awaken your imagination and create a spring flower fairy to welcome in the season.

•Apr. 19: *Wire Portrait:* Bend and twist all sorts of wires to create a wire portrait.

Other regular Saturday activities include:

•Morning Family Ceramics from 10 to 11:30 a.m. ($4-10 sliding scale)

•Meet the Animals from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon.

•Animal Feeding at 12 noon.

•Golden Gate Model Railroad Club Exhibit from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Randall Museum will hold a Spring Festival celebrating its new Outdoor Learning Environment on Saturday, Apr. 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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❖ 填寫申請表格
❖ 解決有關社會機構問題
❖ 團體援助

歡迎親臨參觀本中心！

(415) 586-6998

Evening and Saturday Hours Coming Soon

161 Leland Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134 Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.